SALMON

Stand Alone Missions of Opportunity Notice (SALMON)
Announcement of Opportunity (AO)

Pre-Proposal Conference Overview

September 26, 2008

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Background

Goal: Implement a regular NASA-wide (SMD, ESMD, SOMD, and ARMD) Mission of Opportunity (MO) proposal call that creates new investigation opportunities

- Develop science/technology payloads for flight
  - Better match to national and international flight opportunities
  - Targeted to fit the needs and requirements of the respective Program Element sponsor
- Use for a wide range of opportunities
  - Specific instrument/technology, or Decadal Science enhancement
  - Co-I's on non-NASA and foreign missions/instruments
  - Allows timely mission reuse (e.g., Deep Impact, Stardust)
  - Allows for Small Complete Missions
  - Foreign and domestic mission opportunities

Process & Acquisition Strategy

- **Acquisition**
  - SALMON is an Omnibus AO (e.g., ROSES) with a 5-year "umbrella" period.

- **Process**
  - Requirements are identified by NASA Mission Directorates (aligned with NASA priorities, roadmaps, and decadal plans) and they issue a Program Element Appendix (PEA).

- **General and Focused Solicitations**
  - Individual MOs will be solicited by PEAs through the initial SALMON release and subsequent amendments.

- **SALMON Review Process**
  - Follow standard AO practices of Independent Peer Review Panel, as well as Technical, Management, and Cost (TMC), unless waived in the Program Element (e.g., USPI)

Types of Missions of Opportunity

- **Partner MO (PMO)**
  - Investigation involving participation in non-NASA space missions by providing a critical component of the mission, such as a complete science instrument, technology demonstrations, hardware components, microgravity research experiments, or expertise in critical areas of the mission
- **U.S. Participating Investigator (USPI)**
  - Co-Investigator (non-hardware) for a science or technology experiment to be built and flown by a sponsor agency other than NASA
- **New Science Missions using Existing Spacecraft**
  - Investigations that propose a new scientific use of existing NASA spacecraft
- **Small Complete Missions**
  - Science or technology investigations that can be realized within the specified cost cap (includes all phases from access to space through data publication)
- **Focused Opportunities**
  - Investigations that address a specific, NASA-identified flight opportunity

Key Points

- **Management of Selected Proposals**
  - Program Element Appendices will identify the Center Program Office for selected proposals, that is consistent with the respective Division's flight program office(s).
  - Mission Directorate Associate Administrator (AA) is final selection authority, but may delegate to Division Directors as selection authorities for their respective Program Elements.
- **Cost Caps**
  - Divisions will identify Program Element cost ranges based on planned and available resources.

Program Element Key Points

Common across Program Elements:

- Submission Process
- Evaluation Process
- Selection Process
- General Evaluation and Selection Criteria
- Proposal Format
- Required Proposal Content
- Types of MO Categories
- Selection Official (Mission Directorate AA, but may be delegated to Division Director)

Unique across Program Elements:

- Program Element Type
- Investigation Topic
- Page Limits
- Technical Constraints (optional)
- Cost Cap
- Schedule
- Project Management by NASA
- Specific Evaluation and Selection Factors (optional)

SALMON AO Outline

Summary of Solicitation

- Description of Opportunity
- NASA Mission Objectives
- NASA's Safety Priority
- Proposal Opportunity Period
- Constraints, Guidelines, and Requirements
- MO Guidelines and Requirements
- Proposal Preparation and Submission Information
- Proposal Evaluation, Selection, and Implementation
- Conclusion
- Standard AO appendices, including Appendix B

Program Element Appendix

- Background
- Science (or Technology) and Program Objectives
- Proposal Opportunity Period and Schedule
- Requirements and Constraints
- Proposal Preparation and Submission
- Proposal Evaluation, Selection, and Implementation
- Summary of Key Information

Policies

- This will be a one step process.
  - The AO includes the option to select unfunded backups.
  - It is be very clear that projects will be terminated if the project does not succeed in keeping costs within the box.
  - The proposers must be NASA's partners in controlling costs.
- Require 25% reserves on all phases except Phase E
  - For Phase E, require adequate reserves without establishing a fixed percentage
- Projects may be proposed as Class D.
  - However, all projects should be proposed at an appropriate classification taking into account the specific project and the specific mission.

Policies (cont.)

- Baseline mission only, no minimum mission required but descopes encouraged

- No required Education and Public Outreach (E/PO)
  - No spending cap on E/PO including any proposed student collaboration

- For categorization
  - Science Merit is weighed at 40%
  - Implementation Merit is weighed at 30%
  - Technical, Management, and Cost (TMC) is weighed at 30%

Initial Release PEAs

- H1: Lunar and Planetary Science / USPI $125K/year **
  - Up to $1M
- H2: Lunar and Planetary Science / PMOs
  - $35M for 1 or more PMOs
- H3: Small Complete Missions (SCMs)
  - PSD / Astrobiology $2M for 1 or 2 SCMs
  - ESMD / Fundamental Space Biology $1.5M for 1 or 2 SCMs
- H4: Earth Science / USPI $125K/year - up to $500K **
- H5: Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) / Focused Opportunity $5M for 1

** SMD USPIs may be found in ROSES.
SMD USPI proposals must follow all ROSES rules.

Modification 1

- PEA H3 for SCMs is in the process of being modified to
  - –Indicate that for both opportunities an Accommodation Study performed by the Program Office at Ames will take the place of the typical TMC evaluation performed by the Science Support Office at Langley
  - –Indicate that the selection official for the Fundamental Space Biology opportunity is the ESMD AA